

**Report of Delegates
Overeaters Anonymous
World Service Business Conference 2003**

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

The 2003 World Service Business Conference (WSBC 2003) afforded the delegates from the New Hampshire Intergroup, Lisa Dumont and Howard Bigelow, a unique opportunity to participate in forming the *OA Group Conscience* at the OA-International level on several subjects. We were both struck with the seriousness and purpose with which the 200 or so participants addressed the Conference's activities. While there were typically differing views on many of the subjects, all present seemed to be striving to find solutions that benefited the entire OA Fellowship. Many special, perhaps magical moments were had, especially when the entire conference would unite to recite the Serenity Prayer in all the languages represented including sign language, not just spoken English.

With respect to Conference New Business, the pamphlet, *To the Newcomer*, received Conference Approval. The primary impact of the disposition of several of the New Business motions was to retain the Fellowship's direction in preparing the *Dignity of Choice* pamphlet. While there is dissent on this subject, it appears that the revised draft pamphlet may be approaching a strategy that could achieve substantial unanimity¹. WSBC 2003 also approved a motion directing the encryption of meeting information transmitted to the OA website, thus safeguarding personal anonymity.

Two proposed changes to the OA Bylaws, one concerning disputes on credentials, and another on changing the timeline for Conference Agenda motion balloting, were referred to the Bylaws Committee.

Dexter Jeannotte was elected Region Six Trustee. Lisa was elected Delegate chairman of the Twelfth-Step-Within Conference committee; Howard is serving on the Conference's PI committee.

Concerning the health of the OA fellowship, it was reported that OA only lost 30 groups this year, worldwide, compared to 896 lost groups in 2001.

INTRODUCTION

The 42nd Annual World Service Business Conference (WSBC) of Overeaters Anonymous convened in Albuquerque, NM April 28 through May 2, 2003. Lisa Dumont and Howard Bigelow represented New Hampshire Intergroup (NHI) as delegates to WSBC 2003.

WSBC 2003 comprised six General Sessions, one question and answer session, six business meetings, one Region meeting, one session of the Conference Committees, two early bird workshops, and one Delegates Dinner, spread over six days. The NHI delegates

¹ Individuals and Intergroups were requested to provide comments on the draft by May 31st.

attended all convention events except the early bird workshops and the first two general sessions, which occurred before the delegation’s arrival. (In the future, NHI could consider sending the delegation earlier to attend all the General Sessions and workshops.) The NHI delegates also observed various sessions of the Reference Subcommittee as well as the May 3 meeting of the Board of Trustees. A brief summary of the major convention actions, events, and results is provided below.

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Business Meeting I: The Credentials Report, Conference Rules, and Agenda were adopted. The Consent Agenda, consisting of New Business Motion A and Bylaws Motion 2, was ADOPTED. Questions addressing the Reports of the Officers and Region Trustees were answered. [14 Trustees, 187 Delegates, Total 201]²

Business Meeting II: Questions addressing the Committee Reports were answered. The nominees for Regional Trustee and General Service Trustee (GST) were introduced and spoke. The “*To the Newcomer*” pamphlet (New Business Motion A-a) was APPROVED, receiving 69.6% of those voting (required a 2/3 majority) [14 Trustees, 188 Delegates, Total 202]

Business Meeting III: Elections for Region Trustees were conducted. All candidates received a minimum of a majority present and voting (102 needed), and were elected. Results are tabulated below:

Region	Candidate	Yes	No
3	Deborah Wilson	186	15
4	Constance hight	183	18
6	Dexter Jeannotte	178	23
7	Sanci Michael	143	58
9	Kathleen Russell	193	8

Four nominees were presented for three General Service Trustee openings. Results for those elected are tabulated below³:

Candidate	Votes	Term
Michael Buckley	165	3 year
Ella Abney	156	3 year
Karen Samuels-Ames	119	1 year

New Business Motions C and K (substitute motion) were ADOPTED. New Business Motion D was amended three times and was sent to the Reference Subcommittee, to be reported back to a later WSBC 2003 Business Meeting. [14 Trustees, 188 Delegates, Total 202]

² The Credentials Report is provided for each session

³ To be elected, a candidate needed a majority of those present and voting (102 in this case). Of those receiving a majority, the two candidates with the highest number of votes would be elected to the two 3-year terms, with the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes, the 1-year term.

Business Meeting IV: New Business Motion F, as amended, was DEFEATED. Likewise, New Business Motion L, as amended, was DEFEATED. Bylaws Motion 3 was referred by the WSBC to the Bylaws Committee (to be reported back after WSBC 2003). Bylaws Motion 7 was DEFEATED. [14 Trustees, 187 Delegates, Total 201]

Business Meeting V: “Ask-it Basket” questions on a variety of subjects were addressed by the Trustees. Bylaws Motion 1 was referred to the Bylaws Committee (to be reported back after WSBC 2003). [14 Trustees, 186 Delegates, Total 200]

Business Meeting VI: A substitute motion was presented by the Reference Subcommittee for New Business Motion D. New Business Motion D-sub was DEFEATED. The Conference then received reports from the six Conference Committees⁴, followed by summaries of the workshops held earlier in the week. Statements were then made by the outgoing Trustees. [14 Trustees, 185 Delegates, Total 199]

A summary of the actions taken by WSBC 2003 on the Motions presented to the Conference is provided below:

	Motion	Reference Subcommittee Recommendation	WSBC Result	Comment
New Bus	A-a		Adopted	2/3 needed (135/59 = 69.6%)
	A		Adopted	Consent Agenda
	B		Withdrawn	
	C	not considered	Adopted	
	D	Adopt substitute motion D-sub (13/5)	Defeated	
	E		Withdrawn	
	F	Adopt (9/6)	Defeated	as amended (F-1)
	G		ruled out of order	
	H		ruled out of order	
	I		ruled out of order	
	J		ruled out of order	
	K	Adopt substitute motion K-sub (17/0)	Adopted	substitute motion K-sub
	L	Defeat (14/0)	Defeated	as amended (L-1)
	M	Not Recommend (11/6)	Withdrawn	
Bylaws	1	Refer sub motion 1-1 to committee (14/1)	Referred to Bylaws Committee	
	2		Adopted	Consent Agenda
	3	Refer to committee (16/2)	Referred S-1 to Bylaws Committee	
	4		Withdrawn	
	5		Withdrawn	
	6		did not meet requirements for conference Agenda	
	7	Defeat (14/4)	Defeated	

GENERAL SESSIONS

General Session 3: Provided a summary of Conference and Parliamentary procedures.

⁴ Bylaws, Conference Literature, Finance, HIPM, PI, Twelfth-Step-Within

General Session 4: Provided a discussion of the activities of the Hospital, Institution, Professional, Military (HIPM), Public Information (PI), Twelfth-Step-Within and Service Structure conference committees. These discussions served to highlight items of interest to the delegates, thereby reducing questions during the Committee Reports session of the Business Meetings.

- HIPM: Reported survey results⁵ that 43% of OA members report being introduced to OA by friend or co-worker; 19% by the professional community. HIPM committee wants to keep exploiting the professional community referral. The committee had considered a combination with PI, but recommends against that as hospitals, institutions, and the military are generally overlooked when so combined.
- PI: Indicated the primary features of OA that need to be emphasized by PI are: 1) open to all, 2) no dues or fees, and 3) OA has a solution to the problem. PI will be soliciting ideas from Intergroups, with the winning IG receiving a banner. A CD of a public service announcement (PSA) was provided for use by the Intergroups. Customizable print PSAs are available from the WSO.
- Twelfth-Step-Within: Reported that they 1) succeeded in getting the 12th Step Within Handbook distributed to all Intergroups, 2) the Handbook has been translated to French, and 3) there is a committee presence on the WSO website.
- Service Structure: Reported that there was overriding consensus to strengthen and not restructure OA's Service Structure⁶.

General Session 5: Explained the purpose and duties of the Reference Subcommittee.

General Session 6: Reviewed the procedures for Conference-approved literature development in Overeaters Anonymous, AA, Narcotics Anonymous, Al Anon, and the sexual addiction 12-step fellowships. A copy of the information is available from the delegates. Delegates (and Intergroups) were asked to review the information and provide feedback to the Board of Trustees through the WSO.

PROPOSED LITERATURE Q&A

A session was conducted where delegates could ask questions about, but not debate the merits of, the proposed "To the Newcomer" pamphlet (New Business Motion A-a). This served to shorten the subsequent Business Meeting where Motion A-a was considered.

Likewise, the BOT committee preparing the "Dignity of Choice" pamphlet, a draft of which is available from the delegates, entertained questions about the pamphlet.

REGION SIX MEETING

A short meeting was conducted of the Region six delegates. Thanks was given to Bob Fischer, outgoing Region Six Trustee. Dexter Jeannotte, Region 6 Chairman,

⁵ Briefing of Survey results available from Howard B

⁶ Extensive report available, please see delegates if you'd like more information

congratulated the region for its strong presence and leadership role at WSBC. It was reported that there are 107 unaffiliated groups and a concentrated effort is being made to contact these groups and assist in any way needed.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SESSIONS

The six conference committees met concurrently. Lisa Dumont volunteered for, and was assigned to the Twelfth-Step-Within committee. Howard Bigelow volunteered for, and was assigned to the Public Information committee. A summary of those two sessions is provided below:

Twelfth-Step Within: Lisa Dumont was elected as delegate chairman and Bill Perrault as vice chair. Brainstorming led to formation of 5 subcommittees: outreach to individuals, member retention, communications, Handbook changes, and speaker list. Short- and long-term goals were established by each subcommittee.

PI: Jack Z was elected as delegate chairman for the PI committee. A media kit was distributed, which will be given to the NHI PI committee. Goals/objectives were brainstormed and the following were adopted:

- PI Information on OA Website
- FAQ on PI
- Specific suggestions on how to respond to the media
- Educating & informing members on carrying the message
- Distribution of OA books to prison and public libraries

Howard Bigelow volunteered to work on a subcommittee addressing the first goal. During the session the subcommittee reviewed the OA website (www.oa.org), and established a plan for how to proceed over the next year.

We thank you for the honor of representing NHI and for the privilege of attending WSBC. By attending Conference, we were reminded of how wide spread (world) and serious (deadly) the disease of compulsive overeating is. We are both truly grateful that we have a fellowship that helps us recover on all three levels; physical, emotional and spiritual. We are not alone. Welcome to Overeaters Anonymous, welcome home.

Lisa Dumont
WSBC 2003 Delegate

Howard Bigelow
WSBC 2003 Delegate